

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for generating supply chain statistics, comprising:
  - 2 a) receiving data from a plurality of stores, distributors and suppliers of a supply
  - 3 chain utilizing a network;
  - 4 b) sampling the data;
  - 5 c) generating supply chain statistics based on the sampling; and
  - 6 d) utilizing the supply chain statistics for at least one of demand forecasting, advance
  - 7 planning, and volume tracking in the supply chain.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the sampling is representative of a predetermined
- 2 percentage of the stores, distributors, and suppliers.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the statistics represent sales of the stores.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the statistics represent goods ordered by the
- 2 stores.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the statistics represent a timeliness of delivery of
- 2 the ordered goods by the distributors.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the statistics represent an inventory of the
- 2 suppliers.
- 1 7. A system for generating supply chain statistics, comprising:
  - 2 a) logic for receiving data from a plurality of stores, distributors and suppliers of a
  - 3 supply chain utilizing a network;
  - 4 b) logic for sampling the data;

- 5 c) logic for generating supply chain statistics based on the sampling; and
  - 6 d) logic for utilizing the supply chain statistics for at least one of demand
  - 7 forecasting, advance planning, and volume tracking in the supply chain.
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- 1 8. The system of claim 7, wherein the sampling is representative of a predetermined
  - 2 percentage of the stores, distributors, and suppliers.
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- 1 9. The system of claim 7, wherein the statistics represent sales of the stores.
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- 1 10. The system of claim 7, wherein the statistics represent goods ordered by the
  - 2 stores.
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- 1 11. The system of claim 7, wherein the statistics represent a timeliness of delivery of
  - 2 the ordered goods by the distributors.
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- 1 12. The system of claim 7, wherein the statistics represent an inventory of the
  - 2 suppliers.
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- 1 13. A computer program product for generating supply chain statistics, comprising:
  - 2 a) computer code for receiving data from a plurality of stores, distributors and
  - 3 suppliers of a supply chain utilizing a network;
  - 4 b) computer code for sampling the data;
  - 5 c) computer code for generating supply chain statistics based on the sampling; and
  - 6 d) computer code for utilizing the supply chain statistics for at least one of demand
  - 7 forecasting, advance planning, and volume tracking in the supply chain.
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- 1 14. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the sampling is
  - 2 representative of a predetermined percentage of the stores, distributors, and
  - 3 suppliers.

- 1 15. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the statistics represent sales  
2 of the stores.
- 1 16. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the statistics represent goods  
2 ordered by the stores.
- 1 17. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the statistics represent a  
2 timeliness of delivery of the ordered goods by the distributors.
- 1 18. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the statistics represent an  
2 inventory of the suppliers.

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